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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**

DEC 20 2005

Appl No.: 10/734,952
Applicant: Rafael C. Lopez
Filing Date: 12/12/2003
Art Unit: 3726
Examiner: Cozart, Jermie E.
Attorney Docket No.: 020913.0136US

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AFFIRMATION OF ELECTION

The Office considered the claims of the present application to be directed to patentably distinct species. Specifically, the Examiner required election of species A (claims 1-16), drawn to a ladder station supporting device, and species B (claims 17-24), drawn to an assembly machine for stacking blind slats, and species C (claim 25), drawn to a ladder station. During a telephone conversation on October 12, 2005, Mr. Robert Fish made a provisional election, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species A, claims 1-6. Claims 17-25 are withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This paper responds to the Office Action dated October 21, 2005. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

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Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 11 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

An Appendix including amended drawing figures is attached following page 14 of this paper.